

# ON FINAL

NOVEMBER 2016

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING

## COMMEMORATING HISTORY DEEPWATER HORIZON PAINTING UNVEILED



## COVER

### DEEPWATER HORIZON

Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of the Air Force Reserve, Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin, and Gen. Carlton D. Everhart III, Air Mobility Command commander, unveil the painting “Deepwater Horizon” at the 48th annual Air Mobility Command and Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee. The painting, created by Perrin, is the newest addition to the Air Force Art Program depicts two C-130H Hercules Modular Aerial Spray Systems and Citizen Airmen from the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, in the cleanup effort following the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The painting will join nearly 9,000 other works in the Air Force Art Program. These works document the history of Air Force Airmen, equipment, locations and activities. While the 910th AW’s aerial sprays are commonly known for insect and vegetation control, the wing has assisted the U.S. Coast Guard with oil spill cleanup for almost 20 years. The cleanup mission lasted five weeks and AF Reserve aircrews sprayed approximately 30,000 acres with oil dispersand during the cleanup effort.

COVER PHOTO By Matthew A. Ebarb

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Col. Douglas E. Gullion

VICE WING COMMANDER  
Col. Dana N. Nelson

WING COMMAND CHIEF  
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen A. Brown

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
Maj. Jon Quinlan

SUPERINTENDENT  
Master Sgt. Grady Epperly

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Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor

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Citizen Airmen of the 507th Air Refueling Wing Command Post test communication equipment for an upcoming exercise Oct. 26, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

For information on opportunities in the AF Reserve, give one of our team members a call today or click the Get 1 Now logo.



Amber Lee enlists into the Air Force Reserve Oct. 14, 2016, and will be joining the 507th Medical Squadron after boot camp. (Courtesy photo)

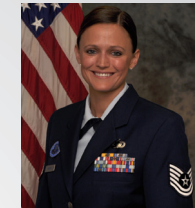
# Reserve RECRUITERS



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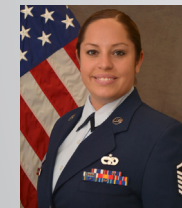
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 5-6**

OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT @ 1800  
DEL CITY AMERICAN LEGION & VFW POST  
NOV. 5

**DECEMBER UTA DEC. 3-4**

ANNUAL AWARD PACKAGES DUE NLT 1600  
DEC. 4

COMMANDER'S CALL @ TBD, BASE THEATER  
DEC. 4

**JANUARY UTA JAN. 7-8**

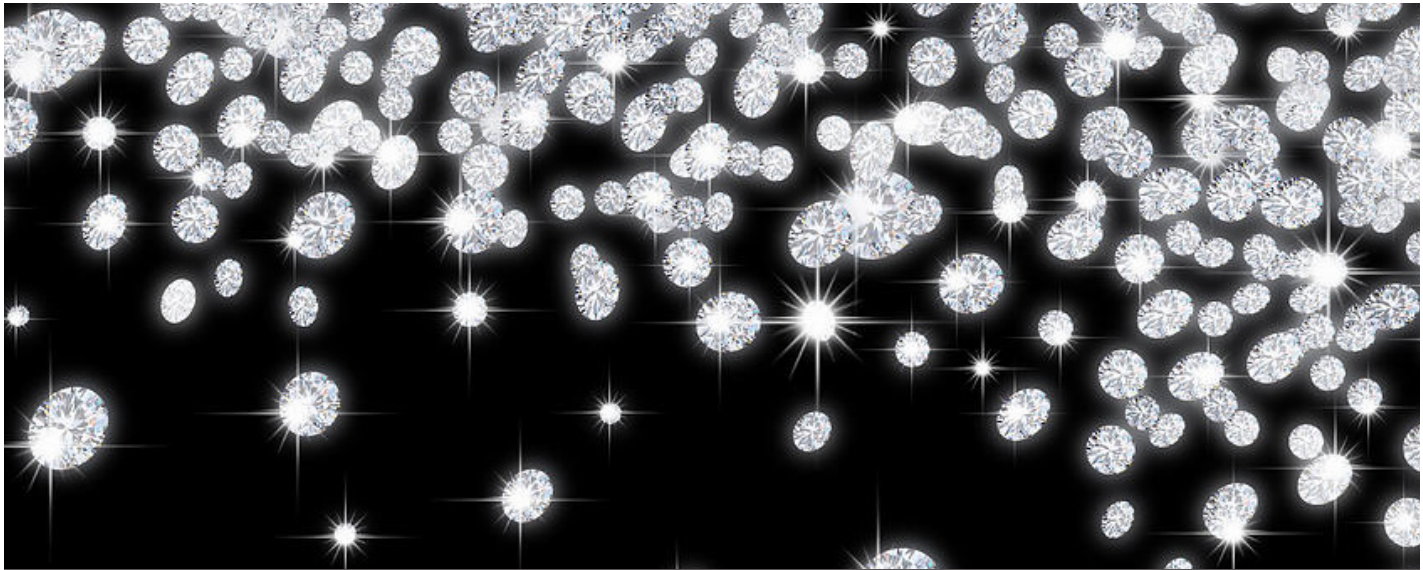
**SUPER UTA  
FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 2-5**

**MARCH UTA MAR 25-26**

**APRIL UTA APR 1-2**

**MAY UTA MAY 6-7**

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LATEST UPDATES**



THE 507th AIR REFUELING WING PRESENTS  
**2016 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

FEBRUARY 4, 2017

SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.  
DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

TINKER CLUB BALLROOM  
6120 ARNOLD STREET  
TINKER AFB, OK 73145

E1 – E5 \$20  
E6 – E8 \$30  
E9 AND OFFICERS \$40

PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO PAY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARD  
REGISTER BY DEC. 30, 2016  
MILITARY DRESS CODE: ABU / FLIGHT SUIT  
CIVILIAN: BUSINESS CASUAL

# Painting unveiling helps commemorate AF Reserve history

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs / Published October 20, 2016

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- Celebrating 100 years of Reserve Airpower, Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin, an Air Force artist from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, unveiled a painting at the 2016 World War I Dawn Patrol Rendezvous event October 1, at the National Museum of the United

States Air Force.

The painting depicts 1st Lt. Charles d'Olive's victory over three German Fokker DVII fight planes on Sept. 13, 1917. Commissioned in the U.S. Signal Enlisted Reserve Corps, d'Olive was the last officially recognized U.S. "Ace" of WWI. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Perrin unveiled his painting to the d'Olive's daughter, Susan d'Olive, and her family alongside Brig. Gen. Vito Addabbo, Mobilization Assistant to the



(left to right) Susan d'Olive, daughter of 1st Lt. Charles d'Olive, the last officially recognized U.S. "Ace" of World War I, Brig. Gen. Vito Addabbo, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, Lt. Col. James Morris, vice commander of the 307th Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, and Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin, an Air Force artist from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, sign lithographs of Perrin's artwork at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Ohio, Oct. 1, 2016. Perrin unveiled a picture at the event depicting Susan's father, 1st Lt. Charles d'Olive's victory over three German fighter planes during World War I.



Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin, an Air Force artist from the 465th Air Refueling Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, unveils his painting at the Dawn Patrol Rendezvous event held at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Ohio, Oct. 1, 2016. The painting depicts 1st Lt. Charles d'Olive's victory over three German fighter planes during World War I. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Joel McCullough)

Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, and Lt. Col. James Morris, vice commander of the 307th Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.

"He did a wonderful job," said Ms. d'Olive. "Paintings are individual creations that come out of historical fact. He (Perrin) has done his homework on what everything should look like, but also it's his own creation."

Perrin was assigned the role of capturing the essence of the WWI event by the Air Force Reserve Command Historian Office. He completed the painting in 18 days.

Perrin did not base his work solely on the historical stories told. "I did a lot of research on the details and the mechanics of the planes."

There is a long tradition in the military of recording for the experiences of soldiers and sailors in peace and at war.

"In this day and age where digital media is such a big thing, and it's so much easier to grab an image off the internet, it's nice to see people have an appreciation for art and an actual original painting," said Perrin. "It really means a lot and I am glad to be part of it."

Not only does the painting depict an event in history, it showcases the fact that Reserve Airpower is something to be appreciated.

Citizen Airmen have been serving our country for more than 68 years and make up 20 percent of the Air Forces workforce.

A CLOSER

LOOK

## Tech. Sgt. Cristina Moreno

507TH LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON  
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP SUPERVISOR

### WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

I am a hardcore science nerd. I like astrophysics and theoretical physics. I'm a full-fledged nerd, not ashamed.

### WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I like to read a lot, and I have two puppies. So it's always play-time at my house.

### AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?

I wanted to be a dentist. Obviously, I'm not a dentist now, but I wanted to be one then.

**WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE MILITARY?** 2009. At 17, I joined the delayed entry program. So as soon as I graduated, off to basic I went.

### WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

Well I'm finally getting to retrain to Intelligence. Hopefully, I'll be able to do some fun stuff on both military and civilian side.

### WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

It's rewarding to help anyone I can with transportation needs they have. I enjoy interacting with wing members and working with leadership and enlisted in the unit.

### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER IN A MOVIE?

Batman! Can I claim Batman? I claim Batman.

*Tech. Sgt. Cristina Moreno poses for a photo in her office Nov. 3, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor)*

## November PROMOTIONS

STEVEN A. SMITH, 507 MXS  
JOSHUA S. GREEN, 507 MXS



MASTER SERGEANT

JORDAN WRIGHT, 513 AMXS  
ERIC ROBERTS, 507 SFS  
KATHELENE MERCADO, 507 SFS  
KEVIN GILES, 507 SFS  
WILLIAM DYKES, 970 AACs  
JARRETT DUNCAN, 507 SFS  
MARK BURROW, 513 MXS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

DAISY SMITH, 72 APS  
JORGE MARTINEZ, 507 CES  
SPENCER COLES, 507 AMXS



STAFF SERGEANT

OMAR WILLIAMS, 513 AMXS

SENIOR AIRMAN



CHRISTOPHER ELLIOT, 507 SFS



AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

AUSTIN C. WATLINGTON, 513 AMXS

AIRMAN



# You only live once

By Master Sgt. Christina Hymes, 507th Medical Squadron

Enrique 'KiKi' Camarena was born in Mexico, had been a U.S. Marine, a fire fighter, a criminal investigator, and a narcotics investigator before he became a Special Agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration in 1974. Camarena was very concerned about the drug problem in this country and firmly believed that even one person can make a difference. But while on an assignment in 1985, he was abducted, tortured for hours, and then murdered.

To honor Camarena's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, angered parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction caused by drugs in America.

**"Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program."**

In 1988, the National Family Partnership coordinated the first National Red Ribbon Week, with President and Mrs. Reagan serving as honorary chairpersons. Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program and is dedicated to educating youth and encouraging participation in drug prevention activities. It is observed annually during the last week in October and this year's campaign is 'YOLO - Be Drug Free - #youonlyliveonce'.

But what does that mean? YOLO is an acronym for "you only live once," and for most people, it implies that one should enjoy life, expressing the view that you must make the most of the present moment without worrying about the future--even if that entails taking risks--as if there would not be another chance for it.

But taking drugs should not be one of those risks. YOLO also implies that you only have this one life to



(Courtesy graphic/Redribbon.org)

live, and in order to make the most of your life, you need to nurture and preserve your body and your mind. You will find in life that there are many things that are out of your control, but taking care of yourself is something you have full control over.

Taking drugs can put your safety, and the safety of others, in jeopardy. Taking drugs can cause conflicts in relationships between friends and family. Taking drugs negatively impacts your ability to focus, study, work, and pay bills. Taking drugs can trigger psychosis, anxiety, tension, paranoia, and depression. Taking drugs can damage the liver, brain, lungs, throat, and stomach. Taking drugs will not make the one life you have to live, better.

Truly, you only live once, and tomorrow may never come. Life is precious and should not be wasted by worrying, complaining, being negative, or doing drugs. Cherish each moment, because life is too short to be anything but happy. Be well.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS SHOP WINS 2016 COMMUNICATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs announced the winners of the 2016 Communication Excellence Awards Oct. 28.

The following unit and individuals will go on to represent AFRC in the Air Force-level Public Affairs competition.

The 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs staff, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, earned the Brig. Gen. Harry J. Dalton Jr., Award.

Tech. Sgt. Lauren C. Gleason, 507th ARW, won the Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Frost Outstanding Communication Noncommissioned Officer (E-5 to E6) Award.

The 315th Airlift Wing Public Affairs staff, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, won the Maj. Henry "Hap" Arnold Award for Public Affairs Communication Effectiveness.

The 439th AW Public Affairs staff, Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts, won the Best Innovative Communication Award.

Senior Airman Monica C. Ricci, 439th AW, Westover ARB, won the Outstanding Communication Airman (E-1 to E4) Award.

Master Sgt. Andrew Biscoe, 439th AW Public Affairs Specialist, Westover ARB, won the Outstanding Communication Senior Noncommissioned Officer (E-7 to E8) award.

Captain Joseph T. Simms, 927th ARW, MacDill AFB, Florida, won the Capt. Bradley R. Schuldt Outstanding Com-

munication Company Grade Officer (O-1 to O3) Award.

Major Hamilton Underwood, 3rd Combat Camera Squadron, Joint Base San An-

tion Civilian Category II (GS-10 to GS12 or equivalent) Award.

Technical Sgt. Jeremy A.



Citizen Airmen from the 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. earned the Air Force Reserve Command, Brig. Gen. Harry J. Dalton Jr., Award for 2016. Additionally, Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason won the Staff Sgt. Christopher S. Frost Outstanding Communication Noncommissioned Officer (E-5 to E6) Award. Pictured from left to right are Master Sgt. Grady Epperly, Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor, Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason and Maj. Jon Quinlan. (Courtesy photo)

tonio-Lackland, Texas, won the Outstanding Communication Field Grade Officer (O-4 to O-5) Award.

Mr. Shawn J. Jones, 514th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, won the Outstanding Communication Civilian (GS-5 to GS-09 or equivalent) Award.

Ms. Carolyn J. Herrick, 943rd Rescue Group, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, won the Outstanding Communica-

Roman, 301st Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, won the Airman First Class Darryl G. Winters Award for Combat Communication.

Results of the Air Force-level competition will be announced Dec. 5, during the Public Affairs worldwide meeting.

To read more stories and photos about the wing, please visit our **homepage** here.

# TINKER CELEBRATES TANKER'S HISTORY

By April McDonald, 72nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs / Published October 17, 2016

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. -- Members of Team Tinker were joined by mission support partners and Reservists of the 507th Air Refueling Wing Oct. 7 to honor an Air Force icon.

The KC-135 Stratotanker's 60 years of service were recognized during a ceremony at Dock 5 ½ in Bldg. 3001. The KC-135's actual anniversary coincides with the first flight on Aug. 31, 1956, so the fall celebration at the home of all organic depot workload was perfectly suited.

Guest speakers from the Air Force Sustainment Center, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, Rockwell Collins and Boeing credited the longevity of the KC-135 fleet in large part to the skilled workforce at Tinker Air Force Base, which was instrumental in putting a record 75 KC-135 aircraft through programmed depot maintenance in fiscal 2016.

"As we celebrate the birthday of a national treasure today, we do so realizing that the 60 years of success of the KC-135 is due to generations that preceded us, this generation and the genera-

tions to come that have invested their lives in the tanker fleet — contractor, civilian and military personnel," said Col. Mark Mocio, Legacy Tanker Division commander and program manager for the KC-135. "Because of your efforts, the KC-135 has served as the backbone of military aerial refueling for 60 years and will continue for decades to come."

The Legacy Tanker program office at Tinker is responsible for life cycle management of the KC-135 fleet, while the maintenance, repair and overhaul is performed by the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex, including the 76th Aircraft Maintenance Group.

They have separate organizational chains and separate responsibilities, but the two groups work together to provide combat power to the Airmen. Cooperation is the key to getting the job done, Colonel Mocio said.

Col. Kenyon Bell, 76th AMXG commander, agrees.

"Our strength really lies in our people," he said. "We can't do anything without our talented and dedicated workforce. Our collective team is laser focused daily on providing safe, quality aircraft back to the operational forces."

Donald Thompson, deputy program executive officer for Tankers with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, said those flying the first KC-135 in 1956 probably never imagined that the same aircraft would be flying 60 years later, much less continue until the 2040's.

"None of that would be possible without you, the men and women of the Air Force and those working for our mission partners," he said. "For 60 years you have been the unsung heroes on the KC-135."

In 1994, the 507th Air Refueling Wing began operating and maintaining the KC-135 on opera-

tional mission's here. The 507th is an Air Force Reserve Command unit and is continuously supporting worldwide contingency operations and U.S. Strategic Command's national emergency requirements with eight KC-135 Stratotankers.



The KC-135 60th Anniversary brought a huge crowd to the programmed depot maintenance line in Bldg. 3001 Oct. 7. The event featured guest speakers from the Air Force Sustainment Center, Rockwell-Collins, Boeing and the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. (Air Force photo by Kelly White) RIGHT: Col. Mark Mocio, Legacy Tanker Division commander and program manager for the KC-135 was one of the featured guest speakers at the KC-135 60th Anniversary event Oct. 7 and spoke on the legacy of the Stratotanker. The other distinguished visitor guest speakers included Air Force Sustainment Center Commander Lt. Gen. Lee Levy II; Donald Thompson, deputy program executive officer for Tanker with the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center; Ryan Roseke, with Rockwell-Collins; and Pam Valdez, with Boeing. (Air Force photo by Kelly White)



The Citizen Airmen of the unit are proud of their contribution to the history of this airframe.

Air Force Sustainment Center Commander Lt. Gen. Lee K. Levy II said there are many more chapters to be written in the history of the KC-135 and he's looking forward to seeing what the next chapter will be.

"I don't know what it will say, but I can tell you it will be impressive," the general said. "I know it will help the United States Air Force, the world's most respected and powerful aerospace and cyber force, remain on top in its preeminent role. And whatever it is that the KC-135 is called on to do next, it will be because of everyone in this room and everybody that you represent. It's an amazing legacy."

# CROSSING OVER

By Staff Sgt. Giovanna Lamaestra , 513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

“I had no idea how daunting it would become.” This was the surprising realization 2nd Lt. Ryan Cheney came to after he started his journey toward Officer Training School selection.

His decision to become an officer came about two years ago. At the time he was known as Master Sgt. Cheney, a Combat Arms Training and Maintenance Instructor with the 507th Security Forces Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

“One thing *I did* know is that I love *being in the Air Force* and I wanted to stay in *Security Forces*.”

After reaching the rank of master sergeant in just five years of Air Force Reserve duty, he found himself at a career crossroads wondering what the future would hold for him. Career decision making wasn’t a new concept for him. He had previously served four years active duty and took a two year break in service before going back into the reserve in 2010.

“One thing I did know is that I love being in the Air Force and I wanted to stay in Security Forces,” said Cheney “I needed to decide what path was right for me. Did I want to go the path of becoming a chief, or was I looking for something else?”

That “something else” presented itself in the form of an instant mes-



Second Lt. Ryan Cheney, 507th Security Forces Squadron, earned his lieutenant bars and was awarded the distinguished graduate award from Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor)

sage from his commander Maj. Patrick Mitchell.

“In 2014, after a UTA weekend, my commander contacted me and asked if I’d ever given any thought to becoming an officer,” said Cheney. “This was a big coincidence since my wife and I had just been discussing the idea of me going back to school to

finish getting my bachelor’s degree.”

For the next two years, Cheney turned his focus and energy on completing college courses, all the while balancing the roles and responsibilities of a father and husband, as well as preparing for the OTS board.

SEE **CROSSING**, P 18

## SPORTS NEWS

# Finally, ‘next year’ has arrived for Cubs

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor  
Sports Reporter Extraordinaire

In the world of sports, historic is a word that is used to describe a lot of things. Sometimes, it’s used appropriately, but perhaps loosely in on other occasions.

When it comes to the Chicago Cubs, historic is the perfect word to describe what they were able to do in the 2016 Major League Baseball season.

With a 8-7 extra-inning victory over the Cleveland Indians in Game 7 of the World Series Wednesday night, the Cubs are world champions for the first time in 108 seasons.

Think about that for a second. That is more than a century, far longer than many of us on Earth have been in existence. Two World Wars, 19 U.S. Presidents and numerous culture changes in our country have transpired since 1908. To put this in further context, the New York Yankees have won 27 World Series titles during this span.

For the fans, there is no more talk about looking forward to the next year. Years and years of hearing their team being called the “loveable losers” is washed away with this victory. Above all, they finally have a team that they can call champs.

While the Cubs have gone through this uncommon drought, that’s not to say they didn’t have their share of good teams. Just when there was hope, it was taken away an error, or even a fan just trying to catch a foul ball, which happened to interfere with a chance to get an out during the National League Championship Series in 2003.

All of that is forgiven with the events of Nov. 2, 2016 (Nov. 3 on the East Coast), and with this current team, they may be on the verge of building

a dynasty.

The core of the Cubs is young, talented and locked in contractually for the long haul. They also have one of the best managers in the sport in Joe Maddon, and Theo Epstein is the president of baseball operations for the team.



Members of the Chicago Cubs celebrate defeating the Cleveland Indians in Game 7 of the 2016 World Series at Progressive Field on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, in Cleveland, Ohio. (Ron Vesely/Getty Images)

Speaking of Epstein, is there a better front office executive in sports than this man? Combine constructing this roster for Chicago with putting a team together to help the Boston Red Sox break their 86-year curse in 2004, and that equals a one-way ticket to the MLB Hall-of-Fame. Epstein could retire today, he still may be known as the executive in sports history.

There is no way to sugarcoat this. The Cubs have made 108 years of heartbreak something the fans can look back on and laugh. This title makes tears of sadness turn into tears of joy, and if this team stays together, there might be more titles coming for the city of Chicago. That would create another time where the word historic wouldn’t be taken out of context.

## CROSSING, CONTINUED FROM P. 16

In short order, he completed his Associates Degree in Enterprise Development on top of a Community College of the Air Force degree in Criminal Justice, and a Bachelors in General Studies with a Minor in Business Administration. All this hard work, hours spent with his nose buried in books, sacrificing family time and giving up all his personal free time with one goal in mind, the hope of just getting a package to the eyes of a review board and winning their nod of approval.

"It was killer" said Cheney. "I was taking 14-16 semester hours at the University of Central Oklahoma, working full-time as a civilian on Tinker, NCOIC of Combat Arms in the Reserve, while still keeping up with being a husband and a step-dad. I did that for three semesters, plus fall and summer classes. It was the craziest year and a half of my life."

In the end, all that hard work would pay off. He finally had his bachelors, and the time had come to put everything in motion with a little help and guidance from his mentor.

"When I started the OTS process, I had no idea how daunting it would become," said Cheney. "Fortunately for me, Maj. Mitchell, who was at the time commander of the 507th Security Forces Squadron, became my mentor and really helped me along the way. A lot of people may know of the OTS selection process in the Reserve, but very few people know how the process actually works. It's a bit of a mystery."

Mysterious as this process may be, it worked, and eventually landed him in front of a six-person panel of field grade officers and a command chief. He remembers how uncomfortable he felt, having to think on his feet, voicing answers to what seemed like a series of rapid fire

questions.

"The board was a little intimidating, but it's meant to be," he said. "They ask a lot of three-part questions focused on the Air Force, yourself and leadership."

His answers were good enough to satisfy the panel of wing leaders, and he was off to Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He found upon arrival that it echoed with familiar tones from some of his past training.

"To a prior service senior non-commissioned officer OTS was a blend of Basic Military Training, Airman Leadership School and the Noncommissioned Officer Academy," said Cheney. "Our class was about a 50/50 blend of priors and non priors. It was very interesting to see how the OTS environment affected the different cadets," he said. "The first couple of weeks you just don't sleep much, but then it starts to transition to less BMT and more of a leadership school."

For those nine and a half weeks of OTS he would push himself. Lack of sleep didn't slow him down. He fought off the distraction of homesickness, ignored physical and mental fatigue, and excelled in his studies. On graduation day he was awarded the distinguished graduate award and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

Cheney will soon spend more than four months away from home and family. Time he wouldn't have had to give up if he had stayed enlisted, but he is passionate about what he could accomplish as an officer and says won't second guess the path he has chosen.

"I have no regrets," said Cheney. "The officer life isn't all that different from the SNCO side of the house, just some different rules to play by, and at the end of the day I'm still just another member of the Air Force team."

## CHAPLAIN'S



By Ch. (Capt.) Keith Rogers

**I**t's hard to believe it's already November. That means Thanksgiving will be here before you know it.

To get ready for the big day of thanks, I decided to challenge myself. Giving thanks isn't just a nice idea, it actually aids your health and immune system, and can even minimize the risk of heart disease.

Please write three sentences stating what you are grateful for, then record your response in as much detail as possible.

That can provide a sense of comfort and well-being as well as fostering positive thought and therefore health.

Challenge accepted. Between now and Thanksgiving, I'm going to write down what I'm grateful for every day—at least three things—big or small.

I hope you'll join me in the Gratitude Challenge.

Day 1 of the Gratitude Challenge, today, I am grateful for 70-degree weather in November.

I am grateful that this UTA I will earn money to help provide for my family.

I am grateful that I always smile when I think about my children.



DOING THE  
MOST GOOD<sup>SM</sup>

# STOCKINGS & SOCK/COAT DRIVE

*To benefit Children & Seniors*

**ALL ITEMS DUE BY COB DECEMBER UTA**

**Fill a stocking for a local child and/or help someone keep warm and dry with a pair of socks or a warm coat!**

*Fill a stocking for a child.*

*Bring in a package or pair of new socks for any age.*

*Bring a new or slightly used warm coat for any age.*

**Someone will be so happy for the warmth and comfort you have provided them with this donation!**



United Way  
Partner Agency





An aerial view of the 507th Air Refueling Wing Sept. 13, 2016, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Midwest City can be seen in the distance. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason